

AMENDMENTS TO THE DESCRIPTION

Please amend the description in the above-identified application as follows:

Amend page 5, paragraph [0020] at line 2 as follows:

--[0020] FIG. 9 is a view similar to FIG. 8 but showing the dual locking gear tooth assembly reversely mounted ("flipped" or rotated 180° ~~about~~ about its longitudinal axis) for the non-ratcheting locking mode of operation of the holder assembly.--

Amend page 16, paragraph [0045] at line 11 as follows:

--[0045] If it is desired to raise or elevate rod 30 quickly, the rod and/or holder tube 34 can be gripped and manually swung in a counterclockwise direction, as viewed in FIGS. 4 and 8, which will cause the ratchet tooth camming surface 230 to slidably force pin 60 to the left, as viewed in FIGS. 8 and 4. This motion in turn causes pin 60 to bear against the left hand edge of cam slots 130 and 132, thereby also raising arms 66 and 68 toward the fully unlocked position shown in FIG. 4. As soon as pin 60 rides up over the crest of tooth 222, spring 46 will tend to drive it back into the root space between ratchet teeth 222 and 224. If the pole raising force is released at this point, rod 30 will have been raised one notch, corresponding to about a 35° ~~change~~ change in elevation. However, if upward raising forces continue to be manually exerted on fishing rod 30 and/or holder tube 34, pin 60 will continue being successively ratcheted over tooth

224 and then over 226 until it reaches the end-limit and seats in a notch defined by the juxtaposed radial locking surfaces 244 and 246 (FIG. 5). The generally radial angulation of surface 246 prevents further counterclockwise rotation of gear 80 and hence further raising of rod 30.--

Amend pages 17 and 18, paragraph [0048] at page 18, line 1 as follows:

--[0048] From the previous description of base 40 mounted in track 22 in conjunction with FIGS. 10, 11 and 12, it will be seen that fishing rod 30 can be rotated about a vertical axis through an angular range "C" of approximately 70°, or 35° ~~either~~ either side of a mid-position shown in FIG. 12 wherein the rod longitudinal axis is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of track 22 (i.e., thus usually generally perpendicular to the fore and aft centerline of the fishing vessel when the track is side-gunnel mounted). Operation of the thumb screws 42 and 44 provides quick and secure locking of the rod in five angularly spaced positions in this 70° range of angular swivel adjustment, as described previously.--

Amend page 18, paragraph [0049] at line 6 as follows:

--[0049] The convertible dual mode feature of holder assembly 20 of the invention is best understood by comparing the operation of ratcheting adjustment described hereinabove in conjunction with FIGS. 1-4 and 7 and 8 with the converted mounting of holder tube 34 and gear 80 shown in FIG. 9. Note that in the assembly of locking gear 80 in U-bracket 52, the gear has been "flipped over", i.e., rotated 180° ~~about~~ about the longitudinal axis of holder tube 34, so that

the locking teeth of gear 80, namely teeth 260-266, are now uppermost and arrayed for selected locking engagement with locking pin 60. Due to the generally radial orientation of the sidewalls of these locking teeth described in conjunction with FIG. 5 hereinabove, rotational torque applied to gear 80 about pivot pin 54 (axis 201) cannot cam pin 60 out of locking engagement between any selected pair of the locking teeth 260-266. It is therefore required, in order to unlock gear 80 for elevational adjustment of rod 30, either upwardly or downwardly, to manually operate locking handle arms 66, 68 by pulling upwardly on handle tube 70 to move the locking handle from its locked position in FIG. 9 to an unlocked position (corresponding to the solid line position of handle arms 66 and 68 shown in FIG. 4) to thereby cam pin 60 out of registry with the locking teeth, against the biasing force of spring 46. When pin 60 is registered with another selected locking tooth space, the locking handle is released, thereby allowing pin 60 to be snapped back into registry with the associated locking teeth by the strong biasing force exerted by spring 46. The handle arms 66 and 68 are simultaneously returned by this spring bias to their locked position in FIG. 9 due to the camming action of pin 60 acting on the right hand edges of cam slots 130 and 132.--

Amend page 20, paragraph [0053] at line 8 as follows:

--[0053] Nevertheless, because some fishermen want their rod holders to lock in both directions, holder assembly 20 provides the aforementioned convertible mounting feature, merely requiring holder 34 to be flipped over and remounted in bracket 52 so that locking pin 60 engages with non-ratcheting (full locking) teeth (FIG. 9). This conversion between ratchet mode and non-ratcheting locking mode is easily accomplished merely by removing the pivot pin 54,

extracting gear 80 and rod holder tube from U-bracket 52, rotating the same 180° ~~about~~ at about its longitudinal axis and then reinstalling the tube and putting pin 54 back in place through the bracket and gear.--

Amend page 21, paragraph [0060] at line 2 as follows:

--[0060] The locking handle pull-up release action is optimized such that the camming angle of slots 130, 132 is preferably about 30°, ~~which~~ which by empirical try-out was found best to enable locking pin 60 to be moved with a low manual handle raising force and to produce a smooth motion within the design area available for the components and mechanical action. Note also that the unlocking handles 66 and 68 are designed to be pulled upwardly in order to release pin 60 from locking engagement, instead of being pushed down to accomplish this, thereby avoiding inadvertent unlocking which could occur if the handle could be unlocked by pushing down. This of course, is a desirable safety feature.